



August 18, 2005

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
Attn: Tracie Billington
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Ukiah
- County of Sonoma
- Mendocino County Water Agency
- Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

DAVE RICHARDSON
Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 833-2553

RE: COMMENTS ON DRAFT PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE (PSP) FOR IWRM IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS, STEP 2

Dear Ms. Billington:

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is an association of eleven cities, counties and special districts within the Russian River Watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration and watershed enhancement. As such, RRWA considers participation in and support of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IWRM) program a high priority. RRWA believes that the North Coast IWRM Plan has effectively represented the interests of our member agencies and so we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for IWRM Implementation, Step 2.

Upon review of the Draft PSP for Step 2, we would like to recommend clarification and improvement regarding the Economic Analysis, Section IV, Requirements for Attachment 7. Attachment 7 requirements mandate preparation of fully discounted, 50-year life cycle, economic analyses for projects. Since many applications include several participating agencies and projects, compliance with this requirement will be a large cost burden on local communities and tax payers and a significant disincentive for disadvantaged communities to participate in the program.

Please consider restating terms for Attachment 7 to require a statement of project costs and benefits that identifies project costs and, to the extent practicable, estimates project water supply and water quality benefits in both physical and economic terms. Alternatively, the requirements could indicate that the state will provide engineering support to disadvantaged communities in completion of the economic analysis required for this attachment.

If you have questions about these comments please feel free to contact me directly. Once again, RRWA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this process.

Sincerely,

Dave Richardson
Executive Director